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Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"If the school is opened, would it not be possible to raise it to a college subsequently ?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The hon. Member probably suggests that every school has to become a college."

Public Health

Segregation of lepers in the Leper Hospital at Tirumani.

* 1187 *Q.*—Mr. P BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the methods adopted to segregate leper patients in the Leper Hospital at Tirumani ;

(*b*) how many beds there are in the hospital and what is the number of patients admitted into the hospital from the date of inception of the hospital up to date yearwar ;

(*c*) whether the Government have ascertained the methods adopted in other countries (foreign) to avoid the spread of this disease and if so, what they are ; whether the admissions are made on voluntary basis or by compulsion by the officers of the State ; and

(*d*) if so, whether the Government will consider the adoption of the methods followed in other countries to prevent the spread of the disease ?

A.—(*a*) In accordance with the agreement entered into with the Mission authorities lepers are admitted into the Lady Willingdon Leper Settlement at Tirumani so far as accommodation is available. By their admission into the settlement the lepers are segregated from the outside public. Residence in the settlement is entirely voluntary.

(*b*) The hospital in the settlement has 22 beds. The number of in-patients admitted from the date of its inception up to date is as follows :—

Year.	Number of patients admitted.
From 20th July 1925 to 31st December 1925.	290
1926	905
1927	676
From 1st January 1928 up to 7th November 1928	440

(*c*) The measures vary from compulsory registration of all cases combined with compulsory segregation of all lepers to a complete absence of interference with the liberty of the lepers.

(*d*) The question has already been very carefully considered by the Government of India and by all the experts on leprosy. It is generally agreed that measures for compulsory segregation would do harm rather than good in India and the most hopeful policy is to encourage patients to come for treatment in the early stages of the disease. In theory compulsory segregation is the ideal method of controlling leprosy, but as there are probably more than two lakhs of lepers in India this is quite impracticable. Even if there were sufficient accommodation in leper hospitals it would be quite impossible to detect and segregate all persons who are suffering from the disease.

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Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" May I know if the asylum is a mission conducted one or a Government concern ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" It is a mission conducted one."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" Is the Government contributing anything for maintaining this asylum ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Yes."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" It is said that the hospital has only 22 beds but in the statistics given here there are hundreds of patients. Does the Government consider that the number of beds are adequate to the number of patients that are admitted into the hospital ? "

11-45 a.m. The hon. the President :—" That is asking for opinion."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" May I know from the hon. Minister the reason for the fall of the number of patients for the year 1927 ? From 290 in the year 1925 it went up to 905 in 1926 and in the year 1927 it has come down to 676. Is it due to the inadequacy of proper or up-to-date methods of treatment ? "

The hon Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Unfortunately, the hon. Member does not seem to comprehend what is contained in the answer. If there are 22 beds, and if a patient is admitted once, he does not remain there throughout the year. When he goes back, another patient comes in and it is considered to be two patients for a bed."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" With reference to clause (*b*), I want to know whether the Government have ascertained the extent of accommodation in the existing asylum in the Leper Settlement and whether there are adequate number of asylums to admit patients who are really willing to go to the asylums ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The question relates only to the Leper Asylum in Tirumani. If the hon. Member is referring to any other asylums, I must ask for notice."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know whether the beds referred to are those in the hospital in the Leper colony ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The beds refer to the beds in the hospital."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I say, Sir, that everything is not all right with the management there ? Government finds the money, the missionaries manage it and the number of admissions has been declining. Recently there was also a strike there."

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member is furnishing information."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" For the benefit of the public."

The hon. the President :—" This is not the opportunity for it."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" I only want to say. . . ."

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat."

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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of the policy of encouraging patients to come for treatment in the early stages of the disease, what arrangement Government have made to bring the patients from their homes to the asylums ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Enquiry into the causes of the death of coolies in the Law College Sewage Pumping Station.

*1188 Q.—Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any enquiry or investigation had been held into the causes of the death of five coolies at the Law College Sewage Pumping Station ; and

(*b*) if so, whether he will be pleased to lay on the Council table the report submitted, if any, by the Director of Public Health and the Sanitary Engineer to Government on the causes of the tragedy and of the measures resolved to be adopted to prevent the recurrence of similar accidents and deaths ?

A.—(*a*) Yes. Enquiry has been made.

(*b*) The reports received from the Sanitary Engineer and the Director of Public Health are under consideration. The question of publishing them will be considered when orders are passed.

Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, with reference to (*b*), when the report was received ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" About a month ago."

Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know when orders are expected to be passed on the report ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I cannot possibly say, Sir."

Report of Captain Srinivasamurti.

*1189 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether, as stated in the answer to question No. 595 answered on 12th October 1928, the Government have considered the recommendations made in the report of Captain Srinivasamurti ;

(*b*) what are the conclusions arrived at by the Government ; and

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to place Mr. Srinivasamurti's report or at least his recommendations on the table of this House ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The recommendations made in the report are still under consideration.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, when the recommendations of Capt. Srinivasamurti were received ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" About four months ago."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" How long will it take for the Government to come to any conclusion on them ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Not very long."